



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUN 30 2016

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Dana Rohrabacher
Member, U.S. House of Representatives
101 Main Street, Suite 380
Huntington Beach, California 92648

Dear Congressman Rohrabacher:

Thank you for your letter dated May 3, 2016, regarding the status of the Environmental Protection Agency's efforts to develop a Biotic Ligand Model (BLM) for copper in marine and estuarine systems. The EPA appreciates your interest in this matter.

The EPA is currently in the process of developing the aquatic life criteria for copper in estuarine/marine waters, which relies on the BLM. The draft document reflects the most recent scientific information on copper toxicity in saltwater systems, including new toxicity data for approximately 30 estuarine/marine organisms. The draft document uses the BLM to incorporate the interaction and effect of physical and chemical parameters of water (pH, temperature, salinity and Dissolved Organic Carbon) that affect the bioavailability of copper to aquatic organisms.

The EPA plans to release the *Draft Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Copper in Estuarine/Marine Water* for public comment this summer. Following the closure of a 60-day public comment period, the EPA will consider the comments, revise the document as appropriate, and release the final criteria for copper in estuarine/marine water.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Denis Borum in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at borum.denis@epa.gov or 202-564-4836.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joel Beauvais", is written over a horizontal line.

Joel Beauvais
Deputy Assistant Administrator